

Remarks

The indication that claims 12 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable over the prior art of record if re-written in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is acknowledged.

By the present amendment, the recited features of claim 12 that the axial length of second division electrode is not greater than 1.6 times of the diameter of such single opening ... has been incorporated into parent claim 11. That is, where parent claim 11 previously recited the length of the second division electrode in the axial direction of the tube being not smaller than the diameter of the single opening, by the present amendment, claim 11 has been amended to recite the feature that the length of said second division electrode in the axial direction of the tube is "within a range of from about 1.0 to 1.6 times the diameter of said single opening ..." and therefore, claim 11, as amended recites the features of objected to claim 12 therein.

Since the Examiner has recognized the allowability of claim 12 and therewith claim 11, as amended, applicants submit that claim 11, the only independent claim in this application should now be in condition for allowance together with its dependent claims 13-20 and 22, it being noted that claim 12 has been canceled by the present amendment.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that all claims present in this application should now be in condition for allowance and issuance of an action of a favorable nature is courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account of

S.N. 10/073,186

Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Dep. Acct. No. 01-2135 (501.36688CC2), and
please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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